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Recreation Commission Minutes 05/20/2009

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2009
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM on the first floor of the Arlington Senior Center on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg and Don Vitters. Also in attendance was Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly.

Members of the public included: Jeanne Leary and Susan MacGoan.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vitters amended the minutes with some typographical changes. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the minutes of April 14, 2009 as amended, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Comfort Facilities in our Parks Update

Mr. Connelly reviewed the feedback from the program, stating that the program has been very successful so far by all indications. Mr. Connelly expressed some concerns over the screening at Hurd Field but explained that the screening was not possible due to the compaction of the soil. Ms. Mayer expressed concern about the placement at McClennen Field, as being too close to the area of the skateboard park that skaters use to eat and drink and at a focal point location that could use more natural screening.

Mr. Connelly also stated that the Crosby units were a little more difficult to clean due to the school van-parking placement.

Special Event Approvals - All events were approved by unanimous vote.

Soap Box Derby – June 6th

Robbins Farm Astronomy Nights

May 30th – 9 to Midnight

June 27th - 9 to Midnight

August 8th - 9 to Midnight

August 12th – 9-Midnight only

September 12th - 9 to Midnight

International School of Boston – Annual School Picnic – September 13th

The Commission discussed the past events with this organization. The conditions would include: Police detail, Brackett School bathrooms, Trash In and Trash Out, and Liability Insurance. This permit would fall under the new Picnic Policy fee schedule.

Rink and Recreation Update

Rink – Mr. Connelly stated that the off season rink activities have gone very well with the first two dances and he anticipates the rink bottom line being very successful.

Recreation – Mr. Connelly reviewed his concerns with the budgetary year-end projections.

Capital Update

Buzzell Field - Mr. Connelly stated that the project has been completed

Thorndike Parking – Mr. Connelly stated that the final approval phase was with the Conservation Commission and would be held soon. After the final approval Mr. Connelly will meet with Larson Associates to determine how to move forward.

Pheasant Ave. – Mr. Connelly stated that the playground was completed and that funds were still being held to ensure turf quality.

Summer Street Playground – Mr. Connelly stated that the project was currently out to bid.

Summer Street Fencing and Pavement Removal – Mr. Connelly will discuss this with Mr. Bean. Ms. Leary stated the neighbors did not want the fence removed now that the trees were not being planted. Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly stated that there were no conditions discussed at the Public Hearing and at that time everyone agreed the fencing should be removed.

Park Policies

Picnic Policy – The Commission reviewed the policy and made several amendments. Mr. Connelly will make the proposed changes and review the policy with Town Counsel prior to implementation. Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the Picnic Policy as amended, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0.

Gifts/Donations -The Commission discussed the sample policies and some of the items they liked and disliked. Mr. Connelly will start to draft a simplified policy.

Storage Shed – The Commission will review this policy at a later time.

Committee Updates

Comfort Facility and Friends of Parks – Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Green Dog Committee – Ms.Mayer reviewed the Town Meeting vote.

Correspondence

Margaret Clark – Bench Dedication

Mr. Connelly will begin to draft a policy for the Commission to review.

Other

Mr. Peter Belnap discussed his concerns with the new crew program on Spy Pond. Mr. Belnap stated that he is excited about the program but feels a few minor details need to be worked out to alleviate some existing issues. Mr. Belnap was concerned with the speed of the motor boats and proximity to the shoreline of the boats. Mr. Belnap also stated the noise of the bullhorn can be a little overwhelming. Ms. Mayer suggested that we have the members of the rowing program at the next meeting to review. Mr. Connelly will extend the invitation. Ms. Rothenberg stated that this was a pilot program and that this type of feedback was very helpful. Mr. Belnap did state that they were using two boats and he thought that only one was necessary. Ms. Mayer stated that her understanding was one boat as well.

Busa Farm

Ms. Mayer updated the Commission on the Busa Farm public hearing and its impacts on Arlington.

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectively Submitted:

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation